GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1714
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2007
OBJECTIONS FROM BANGLADESH ON RIVERS LINKING PROJECT
Barman Shri Hiten

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bangladesh has opposed the Union Government's proposal to link certain rivers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to resolve the issue with Bangladesh and the stage at which the matter stands as on date?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Bangladesh side urged that no plan be undertaken to transfer water from the Ganges and the Brahmaputa as part of the River Inter-Linking Project as this would have disastrous effects on Bangladesh where water of these two rivers act as the life-line to the millions of peoples of Bangladesh.

(c) The issue was discussed during 36th meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission held at Dhaka from 19th to 21st September, 2005. The Indian side informed that 30 links were identified where some surplus water could be diverted in certain regions to other water stressed areas. Of these, 14 links involved the Himalayan region would be attempted until the concerns of the neighboring countries were examined and addressed in an open and transparent manner. Indian side informed that the other 16 links, where a prima facie feasibility had been established, did not relate to any rivers emerging from the Himalayas, and therefore, the Government and the people of Bangladesh need not have any anxiety on this score.